Carnegie Hall today announced a wide range of music education and social impact programs offered by its Weill Music Institute (WMI) throughout the 2020–2021 season, innovative initiatives specially designed for students, teachers, families, aspiring artists, and community members—most offered at low or no cost to participants—connect hundreds of thousands of people each year with creative musical experiences, including many that feature collaborations with some of the world’s greatest artists. Reaching close to 800,000 people in the coming season and nurturing musical talent at all levels, WMI's programs inspire people to explore their own creativity—introducing students and audiences of all ages to music, training and supporting aspiring artists and educators, and harnessing the power of music to make a meaningful difference in people’s lives.

Over the past decade, the expansion of Carnegie Hall’s music education programs across the country has created a national community of educators, dedicated to bringing the best in music to their students. This includes teachers working with Musical Explorers for students in kindergarten through grade 2, the Hall's first all-digital curriculum exploring different cultural traditions through music which can be used in classrooms everywhere; Link Up, Carnegie Hall’s classroom curriculum for students in grades 3-5 which connects 120 orchestras around the world with more than half a million students and teachers in their communities; and PlayUSA which provides funding and professional development to 20 forward-looking organizations that offer hands-on instrumental training to students in their local communities. All of these programs are underpinned by digital resources made available to teachers and partner organizations for free, webinars, program convenings, and the Hall’s Music Educators Workshop in which teachers share best practices, develop new skills, learn from arts practitioners, and create a professional learning community—investing in the people across the country who will teach students for years to come.

Carnegie Hall’s commitment to nurturing young talent is further extended through its three national youth ensembles—the National Youth Orchestra of the USA, NYO2, and NYO Jazz—which bring the finest teen musicians from across the country together each summer to train, perform, and tour; as well as Future Music Project, which invites teens from across New York City to Carnegie Hall to create, perform, and produce their own original music. WMI workshops and master classes also provide invaluable opportunities for young professional musicians to train with world-class artists.

New parents and parents-to-be in New York City and beyond build strong bonds through Carnegie Hall’s Lullaby Project; and families are invited to explore music together through an expanded line-up of Family Events, including Early Childhood Concerts, Family Days, and Family Concerts at Carnegie Hall.
WMI connects with people of all ages involved with the justice system, amplifying voices and exploring how the arts can be a powerful tool for justice reform. This includes its Musical Connections program, an ongoing creative residency at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, and work with teens who are justice-involved through Future Music Project.

Original music written in workshops across all of WMI’s programs is also featured frequently in performances at Carnegie Hall as part of expansive season-long creative learning projects.

“WMI’s programs play an integral role in delivering on Carnegie Hall’s mission of making music accessible to the broadest audience possible, ensuring that it can be a meaningful part of people’s lives,” said Clive Gillinson, Carnegie Hall’s Executive and Artistic Director. “The growth of Carnegie Hall’s work in the areas of education and social impact has been exponential, building on programs that we offer in New York City and scaling them through partnerships and technology to reach rapidly increasing numbers of people around the world. It is exciting to build on the Hall’s legacy in this way, redefining the contribution that a great concert hall can make to people’s lives in the twenty-first century by exploring the ways that we can have the greatest impact in serving and inspiring people through music.”

“We each have the ability to express ourselves creatively through music. WMI’s hands-on programs encourage people to develop that innate capacity, inviting them to open doors to personal discovery, share their perspectives, and learn more about the world we live in,” said Sarah Johnson, Chief Education Officer and Director of Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute. “Thanks to our collaborations with incredible artists across different musical genres and an amazing network of partner organizations, we are engaging with hundreds of thousands of students and teachers in classrooms and concert halls around the world; inspiring the next generation of young artists; and exploring new ways in which creative experiences can have positive impact in our communities.”

**SELECT 2020–2021 WMI SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

**♦ K-2 Educators Nationwide Embrace Musical Explorers Through Free Digital Platform**

Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute continues to expand its popular Musical Explorers program for students in kindergarten through grade 2 this season, making a digital curriculum available for free to teachers everywhere for use in their own classrooms. A program offered in New York City schools for many years, young elementary school students learn songs from different cultural traditions from around the world, reflect on their communities, and build an understanding of the cultures around them, while developing basic singing and listening skills. New online resources recently introduced to teachers across the country include lesson plans, artist-led videos, and digital concert experiences filmed live at Carnegie Hall. More than 1,000 teachers nationwide will take part in Musical Explorers next season, utilizing the Hall’s first all-digital classroom curriculum, with the number of participating classrooms across the country continuing to climb.

**♦ Carnegie Hall’s Lullaby Project Expands Around the Globe**

Carnegie Hall’s Lullaby Project expands across the United States and worldwide this season with more than 40 partner organizations supporting families in their communities. In 2020, Lullaby Project launches a new pilot program in Philadelphia, thanks to a new three-year grant from the William Penn Foundation, and continues its work with international partners in Australia, Canada, Chile, Greece, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In New York City, the project—which pairs pregnant women and new parents with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies, using music to strengthen the bond between parent and child—reaches families citywide through a variety of community partnerships. Hundreds of original lullabies written through the project can be heard on Carnegie Hall’s SoundCloud page, and on Hopes & Dreams, an album released by Decca Gold (Universal Music Group) that features lullabies written by New York parents, recorded by major artists.
Deepening its commitment to musical programming for young children, Carnegie Hall now invites babies ages 0–2 and their families to Carnegie Hall to enjoy free Early Childhood Concerts—immersive musical experiences that include new works commissioned by Carnegie Hall, geared especially for children in this age range. In addition, WMI is piloting free music classes for new parents in collaboration with select New York City community centers, providing accessible ways for families to incorporate music learning into young children’s lives.

♦ Link Up & PlayUSA Support Hundreds of Thousands of Students and Educators Nationwide

Through partnerships with 120 orchestras, approximately half a million elementary school students and teachers will take part in Carnegie Hall’s Link Up program this season with partnerships spanning the United States from Alaska to Florida as well as internationally in New Zealand, Canada, China, Colombia, Japan, Kenya, and Spain. Through Link Up, elementary students in grades 3-5 visit their local concert hall for an exciting participatory experience, having learned music fundamentals in their classrooms throughout the year. The Link Up curriculum and training—provided for free to partner orchestras—includes student and teacher classroom guides, concert scripts, and visuals. In December 2019, Link Up made its debut in China with students coming together for culminating concerts at Beijing’s National Centre for the Performing Arts. Moving into the season, new partnerships with college and university orchestras across the United States will build on the number of Link Up communities nationwide.

In addition, Carnegie Hall supports young instrumentalists across the country through PlayUSA, providing funding and professional development to local music programs that provide their hands-on training. During the 2020-2021 season more than $500,000 in grants will be distributed to approximately 20 forward-thinking organizations committed to providing transformative instrumental learning opportunities for youth who might not otherwise have access to them.

♦ Carnegie Hall’s Acclaimed National Youth Ensembles Thrill Audiences Around the Globe

Carnegie Hall’s three celebrated national youth ensembles return in summer 2020, inviting America’s best teen instrumentalists to come together for intensive training and performances with the world’s finest artists at Carnegie Hall and around the globe, serving as dynamic musical ambassadors for their country. As national ensembles, these programs include a broad range of musicians that reflect the exceptional talent and diversity of the United States.

This summer, NYO Jazz—led by artistic director and trumpeter Sean Jones and featuring vocalist Dianne Reeves as special guest—makes its debut in South Africa, the first of Carnegie Hall’s three ensembles to ever perform on the African continent; their program includes big band standards alongside new music commissioned by Carnegie Hall and additional contemporary pieces that explore jazz’s influence on hip-hop, R&B, and pop music. The National Youth Orchestra of the USA (NYO-USA) travels to U.S. cities in summer 2020 under the direction of Carlos Miguel Prieto, with program to include Stravinsky’s The Rite of Spring. Celebrated violinist Midori joins NYO-USA as this summer’s guest soloist. NYO2, Carnegie Hall’s orchestra for younger teens, returns and continues its ongoing partnership with the New World Symphony. The young musicians are coached by NWS Fellows, and the orchestra’s summer culminates with a five-day residency at Miami’s New World Center and debut performance at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County. NYO2’s concerts in New York and Miami will be led by conductor Mei-Ann Chen.

♦ Workshops and Master Classes Challenge Young Musicians On The Rise

Through WMI’s ongoing series of workshops and master classes, professional young artists on the rise regularly receive personal coaching from world-class performers and composers who have established themselves on the Carnegie Hall stages.

SongStudio, a program for young vocalists under the leadership of legendary soprano Renée Fleming that is designed to renew and refresh the presentation and experience of the vocal recital, brings leading musicians and other performing artists together in January 2021 to mentor emerging singers and
collaborative pianists. Workshops will explore forward-looking approaches to both classic and current song repertoire, inviting new audiences to engage with the art form.

In April 2021, renowned mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato returns to the Resnick Education Wing for her annual series of master classes, focusing on opera repertoire. Four singers will be selected to participate in workshops and a set of three public master classes, which are also streamed live via medici.tv.

Upcoming events in the 2019-2020 season include the Hall’s first hip-hop masterclass, led by legendary artist Black Thought from The Roots in February and a workshop on historically-informed performances of Beethoven’s sonatas by internationally-acclaimed fortepianist Kristian Bezuidenhout in March. Previous workshops have featured Kronos Quartet, Marilyn Horne, Zakir Hussain, Paquito d’Rivera as well as musicians from celebrated orchestras including the Vienna Philharmonic, Berliner Philharmoniker, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

♦ Music Amplifies Voices in the Justice System

For more than a decade, WMI has developed meaningful programs that serve people involved with the justice system and offer the arts as a tool for reforming the justice system itself.

As part of an ongoing creative residency, men at Sing Sing Correctional Facility write and perform original music alongside visiting musicians throughout the 2020-2021 season, forming a unique artistic community that continues to serve them once they return home. Rigorous workshops focus on developing composition and instrumental skills, while several concerts for the facility’s general population feature new works created by the men as well as inspiring performances by guest artists. New this season, a choral program at Sing Sing will invite men to explore and perform a variety of music, including classical, jazz, spirituals, folk, pop and rock, gospel and R&B, along with newly written music for male choir. Families of the men participating in the workshop will also be invited to attend a concert this season for the first time.

Over the last 12 years, Carnegie Hall has also significantly broadened its engagement in the justice space to include creative programs for young people in secure and non-secure juvenile facilities in New York City; the commissioning of new musical works exploring themes of justice, incarceration, and equity, illuminating these topics to a broader audience; and programs for young people at Carnegie Hall. For more than five years, Carnegie Hall has also partnered with New York City’s Department of Probation on NeON Arts, a highly-praised initiative that facilitates free arts programming for people of all ages in probation centers in seven neighborhoods throughout New York City.

♦ Beethoven’s 250th Culminates at Carnegie Hall with All Together: A Global Ode to Joy

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth, visionary conductor Marin Alsop leads performances of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony on six continents with ten renowned orchestras as part of the year-long All Together: A Global Ode to Joy project, which reimagines the iconic symphony as a 21st century call for unity, justice, and empowerment.

Carnegie Hall presents the final All Together concert in Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage on December 6, 2020—featuring an orchestra comprising the finest players of tomorrow, backed by a 250-voice choir featuring singers of all ages from across New York City who will sing a new contemporary adaptation of Friedrich Schiller’s original “Ode to Joy” text by former US Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winner, Tracy K. Smith. The featured guest vocalists for this performance include soprano Golda Schultz, mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges, tenor Sunnyboy Dladla, and baritone Ryan Speedo Green. New music written by New Yorkers of all ages will be featured between each of the movements of the Beethoven symphony.

Music educators, teaching artists, young musicians, and students from around New York City who take part in a variety of programs created by WMI are writing and workshop original songs inspired by Ms. Smith’s poem in preparation for their works to be performed as part of the All Together: Songs for Joy
concert on Sunday, April 5, 2020 in Zankel Hall with mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato and members of Ensemble Connect conducted by James Ross.

♦ WMI Celebrates The Violin With January Master Classes and Participatory “Play-In” Event

As an extension of Isaac Stern’s centenary year, WMI celebrates the violin on January 9-10, 2021. This lively weekend includes master classes with violinists across musical genres, and a special participatory event in Zankel Hall featuring PUBLIQuartet and more than 200 violinists coming together to connect through music. In addition to performances by the host string quartet and special guests, the invited community of violinists—including young musicians from New York City, alumni of WMI’s programs, and amateur adult musicians—will join together for several “play-in” pieces, highlighting the power of music and community.

♦ In Response Showcases Original Music Written by New Yorkers in Concert at Carnegie Hall

In April 2021, as part of Carnegie Hall’s citywide festival Voices of Hope: Artists in Times of Oppression, songwriters across WMI’s programs will explore humankind’s capacity for courage, hope, and resistance in a concert entitled In Response. Music written by New Yorkers of all ages will be showcased at this special Zankel Hall concert. Leading artists of our time will join the songwriters on stage for a vibrant celebration of New York City’s voices.

In Response extends WMI’s tradition of presenting exciting creative learning projects designed to bring program participants and world-class artists together for musical exploration and performance. Most recently, original music by WMI songwriters has been featured as part of The Somewhere Project, a citywide exploration of West Side Story (2016); A Time Like This: Music for Change (2018); Soul Mechanism: A Concert Celebrating the Music of Migrations (2019) and All Together: A Global Ode To Joy (2020).

COMPLETE 2020–2021 PROGRAMS OF CARNEGIE HALL’S WEILL MUSIC INSTITUTE

Family Programs
Children and families explore their imagination and creativity through free and affordable experiences at Carnegie Hall and in their own communities. In the fall and spring, the Resnick Education Wing is home to free, interactive Family Days, with opportunities for kids (ages 0-10) to sing, dance, and create music. In addition, immersive Early Childhood Concerts throughout the season promote the value of music and play in early childhood development for babies and toddlers (ages 0-2). In Zankel Hall, Musical Explorers Family Concerts in the fall and spring for ages 4-8 explore music from different parts of the world that can be found in New York City neighborhoods. A new program offers free music classes for new parents with infants in collaboration with select New York City community centers, providing accessible ways for families to incorporate music learning into young children’s lives.

Lullaby Project—in locations throughout New York City and increasingly across the country and around the world, the Lullaby Project pairs pregnant women and new mothers and fathers with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies, supporting maternal health, aiding child development, and strengthening the bond between parent and child. In New York City, the project reaches parents in healthcare settings, homeless shelters, high schools, foster care, and correctional facilities. Across the country and around the world, the Lullaby Project enables more than 40 partner organizations to support families in their own communities.

Programs for Students and Music Educators
Carnegie Hall trains extraordinary teachers and develops curriculums for engaging music experiences in classrooms and concert halls across New York City and around the world; provides free resources that help orchestras make connections with their communities; and invites music educators to come together to inspire one another and deepen their professional skills.

Musical Explorers (grades K–2)—Through Musical Explorers, schoolchildren learn songs from different traditions, reflect on their communities, and build an understanding of the cultures around them while developing basic singing and listening skills. After exploring a wide range of musical genres in the classroom throughout the year, students in New York City attend culminating concerts at Carnegie Hall that feature the artists and genres they’ve been learning about. The program continues to expand nationally through a new digital Musical Explorers curriculum available online for free for teachers to use in their own classrooms. The online resources include lesson plans, artist-led videos, and digital concert experiences filmed live at Carnegie Hall. More than a thousand teachers across the US
are utilizing Carnegie Hall's first all-digital curriculum, bringing musical traditions from around the world to their classroom.

**Link Up** (grades 3–5)—In Link Up, students learn about different aspects of orchestral music throughout the year in the classroom before singing and playing the recorder or violin along with a professional orchestra in a highly participatory culminating concert. During the 2020–2021 season, more than 15,000 New York City students will take part in *The Orchestra Rocks*—one of four Link Up curriculums created by Carnegie Hall—which explores elements of rhythm through a range of repertoire, including “O Fortuna” from Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, “Mars” from Holst’s *The Planets*, the finale from Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4, and “Drumlines,” an original composition by Thomas Cabaniss. Organizations around the world also bring Link Up to their communities, utilizing free teacher and student guides, concert scripts, and visuals created by Carnegie Hall. During the 2020–2021 season, the program will be implemented by more than 120 partner orchestras, serving approximately half a million students and teachers.

**PlayUSA** (grades K–12)—PlayUSA supports aspiring young instrumental students across the country by providing funding and professional development to local music programs that provide them hands-on training. During the 2020–2021 season, over $500,000 in grants will be distributed to approximately 20 local organizations committed to providing transformative music education opportunities for youth who may not otherwise have access to them. Through the PlayUSA network, grantees address challenges and build on best teaching practices while learning from peers nationwide.

**Music Educators Workshop** (for K–12 music educators)—A great music teacher sparks curiosity, builds artistry, and unlocks music’s power to inspire and make change in the world. Music educators who work with K–12 students in school and community settings strengthen their skills in a series of musical and professional training activities in the Resnick Education Wing at Carnegie Hall. From September to June, New York City teachers at all stages of their careers participate in monthly workshops with visiting faculty. Over the summer, educators from across the country convene for workshops that focus on how shifts in day-to-day teaching practices can reinvigorate student creativity and musicianship. By performing together, participants also tap into their artistry inside and outside the classroom. A new addition in summer 2020 will be workshops connected to the national roll-out of Carnegie Hall’s Musical Explorers curriculum, supporting educators in thinking about best practices related to teaching music and cultures around the world.

**Ensemble Connect School Partnerships**—Created by Carnegie Hall and The Juilliard School in partnership with the New York City Department of Education, Ensemble Connect is a fellowship program for extraordinary young professional classical musicians that prepares them for careers that combine musical excellence with teaching, community engagement, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership. The ensemble’s in-school residencies—an integral part of the two-year program—represent one of the largest and most in-depth collaborations between a cultural organization and New York City public schools. Each Ensemble Connect fellow is partnered with an instrumental music teacher in a public school for a 25-day residency over the course of each year, strengthening students’ music skills through a creativity-rich approach. The fellows’ two-year partnerships culminate with a spring Partner School Performance Festival, with more than 400 students participating in this celebratory event.

**Programs for Aspiring and Professional Artists**
Carnegie Hall supports the performers, artists, and leaders of tomorrow, helping them explore their crafts and share their voices with the world.

**National Youth Ensembles**—Each summer, Carnegie Hall’s national youth ensembles—the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (ages 16-19); NYO2 (ages 14-17) and NYO Jazz (ages 16-19)—bring together the brightest young American instrumentalists for intensive training and performances on some of the world’s greatest stages. All three programs are free and led by an all-star faculty of professional musicians, giving students the opportunity to hone their talents while working with the world’s finest artists. As national ensembles, these programs include a broad range of musicians from across the country that reflect the exceptional talent and diversity of the United States.

**Future Music Project** (ages 14–19)—Future Music Project is a collective of young musicians from all five New York City boroughs who create music as vibrant and diverse as the city itself, giving teens the opportunity to create, perform, and produce their own original music across all genres. Weekly workshops offered at Carnegie Hall and offsite for young people in the justice system focus on songwriting, digital music production, and a sampler pack exploring basic musicianship. Every Saturday during the school year, the Resnick Education Wing opens its doors to all young musicians in NYC through *Studio 57*, an open, teen-driven space to collaborate with peers, work side-by-side with leading professionals, and jam during monthly concerts. A dynamic collective also comes together as the *Future Music Project Ensemble*, performing at Carnegie Hall and throughout the city. Future Music Project also includes *Count Me In*, which gives eighth-grade singers the opportunity to prepare for auditions to performing arts high schools in New York City.
NeON Arts (ages 16–24)—NeON Arts, a program of the New York City Department of Probation in partnership with WMI, offers young people in seven New York City neighborhoods the chance to explore the arts through free workshops in a wide variety of disciplines, including dance, music, theater, visual arts, poetry, and digital media. Workshops are hosted at community-based probation offices called Neighborhood Opportunity Networks (NeONs) and other nearby sites. Participants build peer relationships and learn more about opportunities and careers in New York City arts and entertainment industries. NeON Arts funds and supports New York City artists and arts organizations chosen by local stakeholder groups to host these workshops. The program has received significant support from New York City Council, ensuring young people continue to have access to creative experiences that enable them to nurture their talents and create meaningful connections within their communities.

Workshops and Master Classes (ages 18–35)—Professional young artists receive personal coaching and mentoring from world-class performers and composers who have established themselves on the Carnegie Hall stages, helping workshop participants to reach their artistic and professional goals. In 2020-2021, this series includes mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato’s master classes for opera singers and soprano Renée Fleming’s SongStudio focused on the art of the vocal recital. Past orchestral master classes have featured principal players from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Berliner Philharmoniker, and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. Workshops and master classes in the current and previous season have featured Black Thought, Kristian Bezuidenhout, Marilyn Horne, Zakir Hussain, Abdullah Ibrahim, Brad Mehldau, Paquito d’Rivera, and more celebrated artists across multiple genres.

Carnegie Hall and the Justice System
Programs created by Carnegie Hall serve people of all ages involved with the justice system, amplifying their voices and exploring how the arts can be a powerful tool for justice reform. The Hall is also committed to commissioning new work that illuminate themes of justice, incarceration, and equity, stimulating ongoing conversations.

Musical Connections—As part of an ongoing creative residency entering its 12th season, men at Sing Sing Correctional Facility write and perform original music alongside visiting musicians, forming a unique artistic community. A series of workshops focuses on composition, instrumental, and choral skills, while several concerts for the facility’s general population feature new works created by the men, as well as inspiring performances from guest artists. After returning home to New York City, men meet regularly at Carnegie Hall to support one another, make music, and inform the Musical Connections program as an advisory committee.

Arts and Youth Justice—Carnegie Hall is committed to providing pathways for young people who are involved in the justice system to develop their talent, strengthen their communities, and thrive. Through Future Music Project and NeON Arts, New York City teens create original music and art while connecting to opportunities in their neighborhoods. Youth Truth is a series of monthly interactive conversations among young people primarily impacted by the juvenile or criminal justice system and is led by youth representatives with the purpose of engaging youth to create awareness and provoke change around the issues they face on a daily basis, utilizing art as a positive outlet.

Special Projects

All Together: A Global Ode to Joy—Ten orchestras around the world reimagine Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony for the 21st century, culminating with a Carnegie Hall concert on December 6, 2020, led by Marin Alsop. This performance includes a 250-voice choir featuring singers of all ages from across New York City and original music by New Yorkers, inspired by “Ode to Joy.”

Violin Weekend—As an extension of Isaac Stern’s centenary year, WMI celebrates the violin on January 9-10, 2021. This lively weekend includes master classes with violinists across musical genres, and a special participatory event in Zankel Hall featuring PUBLQuartet and more than 200 violinists from the WMI learning community coming together to connect through music.

In Response—In April 2021, as part of Carnegie Hall’s citywide festival Voices of Hope: Artists in Times of Oppression, songwriters across the Weill Music Institute’s programs celebrate the life-affirming power of music and the resilience of artists in the face of injustice in a concert entitled In Response in Zankel Hall. New Yorkers of all ages showcase original music that explores humankind’s capacity for courage, hope, and resistance. Leading artists of our time join the songwriters onstage for this vibrant celebration of New York City’s voices.

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For more information and videos exploring Weill Music Institute programs, visit carnegiehall.org/education.